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“Do Good Everywhere” at Jewish Federation’s Main Event

Author and journalist Abigail Pogrebin will be the guest speaker for the Jewish Federation’s Main Event “Stars of David: Jewish Identity in the 21st Century” on Thursday, December 17 at 7:30 PM at Temple Israel. “This is the night when our community will come together for an event that will benefit our entire Jewish community,” said Larry Schwartz, 2016 Main Event Chair.



Abigail Pogrebin

Guest speaker Abigail Pogrebin has become a rare voice among American Jews, as a journalist and an explorer who shares with refreshing wit and candor her path to finding a meaningful Jewish life. A former producer for *60 Minutes* and *Charlie Rose*, she is the author of *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish*, in which sixty-one of the most accomplished Jews in America speak intimately—most for the first time—about how they feel about being Jewish, the influence of their heritage, the weight and pride of their history, the burdens and pleasures of observance, the moments they’ve felt most Jewish (or not). In unusually candid interviews with Abigail Pogrebin over the course of 18 months, celebrities ranging from Sarah Jessica Parker to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, from Larry King to Mike

Nichols, reveal how being Jewish fits into their public and most private lives.

At The Main Event, Abigail Pogrebin will share vivid, personal portraits of the celebrities she interviewed and will reveal how the experience of being Jewish is amplified by fame. And she will share how her own evolving Jewish identity changed by what she heard. During the evening, Ms. Pogrebin will also moderate a conversation about Jewish identity among distinguished members of the Charlotte Jewish community.

Several members of the 2016 Main Event

Host Committee were asked, “If you had the opportunity to interview a celebrity about his/her Jewish identity, who would it be?”

“Jon Stewart,” said Julie Sheffer. “On his show, he often referenced (and poked fun at) his Jewish background, so I would be curious to learn how his Jewish values influenced his political views.”

Leon Golynsky would interview Larry David. “It would be interesting to learn how his Jewish background contributed to his comedic talent.”

Jennifer Golynsky would like to interview Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. “I’d like to know what it’s like to have

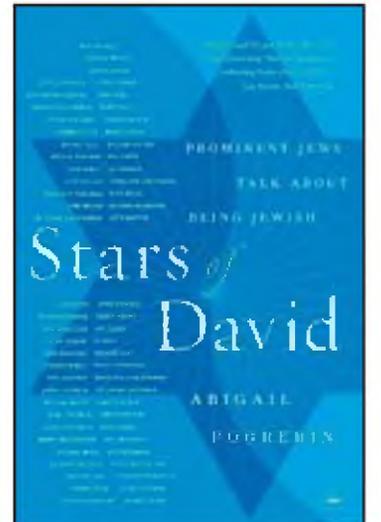
such an effect on national public policy and how it is to work in a male dominated environment.”

Jodi and Stuart Cohen would pose the following question to any Jewish celebrity: “Generally being Jewish can be known to have negative implications ... in your case, have you had any positive effects?”

“Michael Bloomberg,” said Jen Schwartz, “so I could try to convince him to run for president.”

“Music is meaningful to me and I like to associate artists with the connections their life experiences have had on the music they make,” said Debra Van Glish. “So, I would love to interview

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Advocacy and Social Justice Now Have a Place in Charlotte

The Story of The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University

By Amy Krakovitz

There is a parable used by social activists: A villager saw a stranger thrashing in the current of the nearby river. Without stopping to think, the villager jumped into the river and pulled the stranger to safety. Soon a schedule of lifeguards was established and every few days another villager would save another stranger and be hailed as a local hero. As more and more resources were devoted to rescues, finally someone stood up and said, “Maybe we should travel upstream and see why so many people are falling in the river.”

So it is with Jews volunteering in the community. We can line the proverbial river with lifeguards, pulling out strangers who fall into the current of hard times. But we can also travel upstream, enlisting our synagogues to advocate for changes that will prevent these accidents.

And so it is in solving problems through social justice. As Rabbi Judy Schindler says, “There’s a spectrum of problem-solving in social justice. From using your voice to call attention to something to ‘moving upstream’ and dealing directly with cause. ... We hope The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University will present opportunities to the people and organizations to solve these problems.”

The Stan Greenspon Center will open in July 2016 and the story of its creation is one of cooperation, understanding, professionalism, and serendipity. Without the collaboration of agencies and professionals on Shalom Park, as well as a fortuitous alignment of events, it might never have come to be.

Passionate About the Holocaust

The spark of the Center itself one might say began as long as 30

such things to happen.

Enter now, Talli Dippold, who, at the time, was Director of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. The library had been fielding an enormous number of calls and requests from scholars and educators for Holocaust resources, a demand that the library at the time found difficult to fulfill. Because of her background as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Dippold was

passionate about anything Holocaust related. She had visited Eastern Europe and witnessed the devastating trail of death that included concentration camps, mass graves, and ghettos. She was a member of the North Carolina State Council for the Holocaust, where she chaired the committee that created The Suitcase Project, a traveling exhibit that contains resources, artifacts, stories, pictures, and more. But what the callers were looking for seemed like more.

Sue Worrel, the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, says, “These educators and students were seeking more about Holocaust studies; they needed resources to strengthen and develop their own education and curricula.”

Commissioning a Study

Worrel contacted Greenspon, who she knew aspired to make a meaningful impact against hate

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Maureen O'Keefe and Stan Greenspon

years ago, when Stan Greenspon first heard about the Holocaust. “Growing up in North Carolina,” he explains, “I never knew anything about it. I didn’t study it in school; I didn’t know anyone who talked about it. ... When I finally heard about it, the sheer numbers shook me to the core. It was astonishing. I have been captivated by it ever since.”

This “captivation” has manifested itself in Greenspon as a desire to do something about the way people think that could allow

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